

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 10145 091124Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W

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R 091009Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 847

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: REVOLUTION DAY

1. RUMOR TIME AGAIN IN ADDIS AS SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION APPROACHES (SEPT 12). HOWEVER, VOLUME AND INTENSITY OF RUMORS THAT BAD THINGS ARE LIKELY TO HAPPEN STRIKES US AS BEING LOWER PITCH THAN FOR IMMEDIATELY PREVIOUS CELEBRATIONS ON MAY DAY AND ZEMATCHA DAY. MOST SEEM TO CENTER ON POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES BY MEMBERS OF ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP) WHICH REPORTEDLY IS CURRENT PREOCCUPATION OF EPMG SECURITY FORCES.

2. THAT EPMG HAS BEEN AND IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN EVIDENT FOR ALMOST THREE WEEKS. GUN JEEPS HAVE BEEN PROWLING STREETS OF ADDIS AND GUARDS HAVE BEEN POSTED AT STRATEGIC POINTS (BRIDGES, BANKS). ONE APPARENTLY RELIABLE REPORT WAS THAT DYNAMITE WAS INDEED FOUND UNDER BRIDGE CLOSE TO REVOLUTION SQUARE SOME TWO WEEKS AGO. SHOW OF FORCE ORIGINALLY DID NOT NECESSARILY HAVE REVOLUTION DAY IN MIND, BUT IF, AS WE THINK LIKELY, IT FIRST APPEARED IN RESPONSE TO SOME KIND OF REAL OR IMAGINED EPRP THREAT, IT HAS NOW MERGED INTO THE PRE-REVOLUTION DAY PERIOD AND CERTAINLY SERVES AS A WARNING TO POTENTIAL MALEFACTORS.

3. AS HAS BECOME CUSTOMARY ON DAYS OF CELEBRATION, SECURITY WILL VERY PROBABLY BE EVERYWHERE ON SEPT 12.

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 10145 091124Z

WE WILL NONETHELESS TAKE OUR USUAL PRECAUTIONS.

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